

THE
Duties -of- Men,
AND
Disadvantages of Women,

—BY—

RUSSEL AVERILL,
BOSTON, MASS.

1891.

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PREFACE.

The subjects here treated of take quite a wide range, but all are considered important for people to know, if they do not already. Of course in a work of this size, none of the topics could be treated at length, but if it induces people to examine and think of matters brought to their notice, it may be productive of good.

If women will try to benefit themselves, it would be well to bring this pamphlet to the notice of all, both women and men, as it may set people to thinking and acting, and right action in respect to things therein treated upon, will not only benefit women, but men as well.

It is hoped that men will take what is said in the last part of this pamphlet in regard to their conduct to women, in a kindly spirit, and if any do not live up to the requirements mentioned,

that they will see the selfishness of the conduct mentioned, and govern themselves in accordance with the happiness and welfare of their wives, rather than selfishly to gratify their own passions.

Hoping that no one will indulge in the idea that what is treated of in this pamphlet is of no account, but will read and reflect upon it before condemning it, and not think it cannot be true, because it may not agree with his or her opinions, which all should be willing to modify on mature reflection.

All that is treated of in this pamphlet, and much more that is not touched upon, it seems to me, that men and women should understand if they want to be free and independent, and transmit these blessings to their children. It is as much for the good of women that good government should prevail, as it is for the men, and it would be a great blessing to men, if they would accord to women all rights which are justly their due, which it is hoped many do.

I have quoted from the work by F. O. Willey : "Whither Are We Drifting as a Nation and The New Era in Republican Government," Geo. C. Hackstaff, Publisher, St Louis, Missouri.

The Duties of Men and Disadvantages of Women.

In discussing the present condition of the world, it is well to see what the condition of mankind was in the remote past, and it is found that it was not very much higher than the brute creation, and that it has come up to its present condition, step by step, through a long stretch of time, and judging by the past, it is natural to suppose that in the future, it will continue to increase, intellectually and morally, and consequently will involve and require, better social and economic conditions, and that its present state of growth, or evolution, is not the highest to which it will attain, but is only a temporary condition through which it is passing to something higher and better.

The present economic and competitive system should be replaced by conditions wherein all would receive that which of right belongs to them, and not have a few manage to come into possession of that for which they have given no just compensation. Not all men have yet grown strong enough in the moral sentiments of justice and

benevolence, to willingly accord to others what rightfully belongs to them, but seek to obtain what they have earned by various devices, among which the banking system of the country figures conspicuously, and the better to carry out their schemes to rob the people, the money power, or capitalists, have subsidized the metropolitan press and control the legislation of the country, to a large extent, in their own interest.

What a vast power the banks exert with the privilege which have been given them. How long can liberty endure when the tendency of legislation is to concentrate wealth in the hands of a few.

The following from a circular issued by the National Banking Association, and sent to every national bank in the United States, explains itself and throws light on some other subjects, which undoubtedly seem dark and obscure to many who have not studied the finance question.

DEAR SIR: It is advisable to do all in your power to sustain such daily and weekly newspapers, especially the agricultural and religious press, as will oppose the issuing of greenback paper money and that you also withhold patronage

or favors from all applicants, who are not willing to oppose the government issue of money. Let the government issue the coin (only two and a half per cent. of the circulation) and the banks issue the paper money of the country, for then we can better protect each other. To repeal the law creating national banks, or to restore to circulation the government issue of money, will be to provide the people with money, and will therefore seriously effect your individual profits as bankers and lenders. See your member of Congress at once, and engage him to support our interest, that we may control legislation.

“Here is the key to the situation. The leading papers are rich and are therefore directly interested in dear money and cheap commodities, and the minor newspapers are as a rule taken care of according to the advice given in the circular just quoted. And then the individual profits of bankers and lenders would be seriously affected should the government issue money instead of the banks and this the bankers understand as is seen by the language of the circular. Is it a wonder then that bankers and lenders oppose the government issue of money.” Why should the

government grant such privileges to banks—the power to fix the value of things as by contracting the volume of the currency, they can lower the price of land, commodities and wages, and thus reduce the people to poverty, while the banks profit by being able to buy land and other things, cheaper, because their value is reduced for a time, to be raised when it comes into possession of the capitalists; and such periodical crises probably are brought about intentionally by the banks, to take from the laboring community their hard earnings, so that those who own and control the banks can live in luxury and ease. The government should issue the money, and make it a legal tender, and it always would be safe, and the privilege of the few to live at the expense of the many would be taken away, as far as the banks were concerned.

According to Warwick Martin, if the greenbacks had been made a legal tender for all debts due the nation, the national debt would have been less by at least one billion or one thousand millions of dollars.

“If the farmer could have such privileges as the national banks have, he could mortgage his ten thousand dollar farm to the government for nine thousand dollars, and loan that money to

the people at from 6 to 24 per cent. and all he would need to pay the government would be a tax of one per cent. on the amount loaned. Then the government would also pay him six per cent. interest on his whole farm, as it does the banker on his bonds, and in addition to all this the government would exempt his farm from taxation, national, state and municipal."

"Would not that be a great privilege for the farmer? That is just such a privilege as the banks have. Now, why, in the name of common sense do you permit it? Why do you permit labor to be robbed in that way? Why do you allow corporations to absorb the wealth of the nation, at such a fearful rate? Do you not see that such a system is fatal to liberty? You can prevent it by intelligent voting."

It probably is not generally known that Benjamin Franklin originated the theory of government money in this country, and I would recommend all to read his essay on money, in his biography written by himself, or it will be found in a work by F. O. Willey, entitled, "Whither are We Drifting as a Nation, and The New Era in Republican Government." Geo. C. Hackstaff, Publisher, St. Louis, Mo., which work contains a vast amount of information in regard to bank-

ing, railroads and various schemes to defraud the people of their earnings, which information all ought to know if they wish to preserve their liberties, and not be reduced to the condition of Ireland. People may think this is sounding a needless alarm, but can they not see by looking around them the tendency of things; the vast majority of people becoming poorer every day, and a few growing enormously rich by absorbing the earnings of the laborers, for wealth comes from labor, and the capitalists manage to scoop in what others have earned by hard labor, and thus live in idleness and luxury themselves, while those who have earned the wealth, are robbed of it and suffer in consequence of this state of things, and are looked upon as inferior by those who have unjustly taken from them their hard earnings.

But to return to Dr. Franklin. Was Franklin a visionary, "a crazy greenbacker" originating a wild money scheme; or was it a scheme that worked well in Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War? Let history tell. Why do the papers of the country keep the people ignorant of Franklin's money system which worked so well, in Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War?

The reason is not far to seek: It would overthrow their talk about greenbacks.

Do not be laughed or jeered out of your opinions by those who are selfishly interested in maintaining the present economic, social and competitive state of things. Franklin's scheme, which was put in practice in Pennsylvania, before the Revolutionary War, was similar to the greenback money, and his scheme worked well, for a long time.

Gillett's comments: "For fifty years the paper-money system or the issue by the colonial government of legal tender 'proclamation money,' as it was at first called, and afterward 'resolve money,' was continued with marvelous results. This money bore no promise of redemption in coin, but a promise to receive it for all dues. It never was redeemed in coin. It rested upon the credit of the tax-payers and wealth producers of Pennsylvania, and was loaned to the extent of the demand, upon land and plate—not to bankers, not to corporations in immense sums, but to farmers and business men, in sums not exceeding 100 pounds.' "

Phillips' Paper Currency, a book published in 1765, opposed to paper money, says on page 36:

“No great fluctuations are recorded in this province (Penn).” The money was so good it circulated in neighboring provinces as at home. The volume was governed by the necessities of individuals and of the public, and was always sustained in value by taxation.”

“It was universally accepted and regarded as an axiom by our colonial fathers, that it was not only the right, but the duty of the government to provide the people with a sufficient supply of money for the wants of trade.”

Dr. Franklin gave this account in his autobiography of the introduction of his system in Pennsylvania: “About this time (1723) there was a cry among the people for more paper money, only £15,000 being extant in the province and soon to be sunk. The wealthy inhabitants opposed any addition, being against all paper currency. I was on the side of an addition, being persuaded that the first small sum, struck in 1722 had done much good by increasing the trade, employment and number of inhabitants in the province.”

The reason the wealthy opposed any addition, was probably because by keeping money scarce they could get more interest, and take advantage in various other ways.

There is a great deal said about honest money. The banks are not required by law to hold but five per cent. of their circulation, and they could not redeem one hundred dollars with five, and you cannot get greenbacks redeemed except you have fifty dollars, and then have to go to New York to get it.

The Honest Money League have ridiculed the idea of that which would be honest money, and tried to make people believe that the present system, by which they can fleece the community outrageously is an honest one. The gold eagles are only nine-tenths gold, and our standard silver dollars are worth considerable less, as bullion, than the gold dollar. "How is that for the Honest Money League's dollar? The pretense that they want to secure an honest money for the people, is a sham and a fraud, as the above analysis shows. The control of the currency is what they are after." Heath quotes from E. P. Elder as follows: "Money is no more a standard of value of the things exchanged, than is any other commodity."

Adam Smith, the very celebrated writer on political economy, in speaking of the precious metals says: "Constantly varying in their own value, they can never be made an accurate meas-

ure of the value of other commodities. "Of course gold can be made a standard of payment, the same as paper or nickel, but not a standard of value."

Why were the greenbacks depreciated? John Sherman said: "To create a market for the bonds.

"The exception clause lowered the value of the greenback and raised the price of gold; it changed their relative value, until the difference at one time was \$1.85. Then the capitalist could purchase two hundred and eighty-five dollars in greenbacks with one hundred dollars in gold, and the government would receive his greenbacks at par for bonds, drawing six per cent. gold interest. That would give him one hundred and eighty-five dollars in bonds for one hundred dollars in gold, and those bonds would be drawing just as much gold interest as though they cost their face value in gold. In that way he increased his interest income from 6 to 17 1-10 per cent. Thus it would be seen that, as a result of the depreciation of the greenback, he draws 17 1-10 per cent. interest on his one hundred dollar gold investment, whereas, if the greenback had been at par he could have drawn only six per cent."

What a scheme for cheating the people out of their earnings. The capitalistic press, and demagogues, have tried to make the people believe that the premium on gold was on account of an over-issue of greenbacks, but it is quite evident that the money power has been deceiving the people in regard to that matter.

A leading New York Journal said: "The time is near when they—the banks—will feel themselves compelled to act strongly. Meanwhile a very good thing has been done. The machinery is now furnished by which, in in any emergency, the financial corporations of the East can act together on a single day's notice, with such power that no act of Congress can overcome or resist their decision." People of America do you hear that? Is it not time that you aroused yourselves, and placed yourselves above the banking corporations, and all other institutions that can deprive you of your just rights? Again I say that you, or the government, should issue greenbacks or something similar and make them a legal tender, and do away with private banking corporations.

But a little has been said in regard to banking that might be told, but I will pass to the railroads of the country, which are a great con-

venience, but they have been granted privileges, and powers which they are using for their own aggrandizement, and are exerting an influence in shaping the laws that is dangerous to the liberties of the people.

They have secured more land than is contained in a dozen states, to be withheld from the people except at the price they see fit to charge them for it, which price there can be no good reason to suppose will be a cheap and just one, and they can ruin any business that requires transportation of commodities, by the charges they make for carrying freight, a privilege and authority that never should have been granted to private corporations, but should have been kept in control of the government—which is the people—to be operated for their benefit, at cost, which would make travel and transportation much cheaper than at present.

The coal mines of the country ought not to be monopolized by a few, and the land should not be grasped in immense quantities by any one. There is a strong probability that the very air we breathe would be fenced in by some, if they had the power to do it, and we would have to pay for inhaling this life sustaining element.

“In 1874, the Senate of the United States, in

response to a general demand, appointed a special committee on transportation, composed of Wm. Windom of Minnesota ; John Sherman of Ohio ; Roscoe Conkling of New York ; H. G. Davis of West Virginia ; T. M. Norwood of Georgia ; J. W. Johnson of Virginia ; John H. Mitchell of Oregon ; and S. B. Conover of Florida. The committee occupied the entire summer of 1874 in making an exhaustive examination of the subject, and in their report we find the following : “In the matter of taxation, there are to-day four men, representing the four great trunk lines between Chicago and New York, who possess, and who not unfrequently exercise powers which the Congress of the United States would not venture to exert. They may at any time, and for any reason satisfactory to themselves, by a single stroke of the pen, reduce the value of property in this country by hundreds of millions of dollars.

An additional charge of five cents per bushel, on the transportation of cereals, would have been equivalent to a tax of forty-five millions of dollars on the crop of 1873. No Congress would dare to exercise so vast a power except upon a necessity of the most imperative nature, and yet these gentlemen exercise it whenever it suits their

supreme will and pleasure, without explanation or apology. With the rapid and inevitable progress of combination and consolidation, these colossal organizations are daily becoming stronger and more imperious.

The day is not distant, if it has not already arrived, when it will be the duty of the statesman to inquire whether there is less danger in leaving the property and industrial interests of the people thus wholly at the mercy of a few men, who recognize no responsibility but to their stockholders, and no principle of action but personal and corporate aggrandizement, than in adding somewhat to the power and patronage of a government directly responsible to the people, and entirely under their control."

Report of United States Senate Committee on Transportation Routes, page 158. The railroads can pay enormous fees for professional services, as transportation and travel pay them extravagantly for accommodating the public.

Railroad men, who have accumulated within a few years amounts ranging from one to five millions, are too numerous to mention, as are those also, in branches of trade depending upon, and closely identified with railroad transportation—*shippers who, through the favor of railroad man-*

agers, have been enabled to outstrip or break down all competition.

These are found in every branch of trade, but in none, perhaps, are they so prominent as in the petroleum business. If a true history of the Standard Oil Company could be written it would read more like a romance of the Middle Ages than a statement of commercial facts possible in the nineteenth century. This is the organization to which the Hepburn committee alludes as this mysterious organization, *whose business and transactions are of such a character that its members decline giving a history or description of it lest their testimony be used to convict them of crime.*"

And thus are they enabled to enslave the people. The Standard Oil Company is enabled, through its riches thus acquired, to purchase large tracts of land for the purpose of raising wheat on a large scale, which means more of the tenant system. The railroad companies threatened even the supreme court through their counsel and the associated press, which is subsidized by the rich, suppressed the same. Secretary Windom said: "The capitalists have bought, and are buying largely, the Associated Press, and are controlling all the avenues of intelligence." F. O. Willey says in his book: "By controlling the

avenues of intelligence, the capitalist holds the confidence of the heads of families with one hand, as it were, while he rifles their pockets with the other. He instills wrong ideas and dangerous prejudices into their minds, and they in turn hand them over to their children, and each succeeding generation comes upon the stage, innocently kissing the hand that smites them, while every year adds immensely to the abundance of the rich, and every day poverty becomes more widespread and distressing." Is such a press fit to be the source of information for a free people?

I fear the people are not aware of the extent to which the railroad corporations are controlling the legislation of the country, and of what vast sums they expend for that purpose, and that they oppose investigation, and that presidents of railroads have denied abuses which were afterwards proved to exist.

These people thus grown rich would gladly welcome a monarchy, and a privileged class, as they think that they are better than the great mass of mankind.

Whitelaw Read in the New York Tribune used substantially these words: "It is astonishing, yea, startling, the extent to which the faith pre-

vails, in the money circles in New York, that we ought to have a monarchy."

Hear what Lincoln says in his message to Congress in 1861: "Monarchy is sometimes hinted at as a possible refuge from the power of the people. In my present position I would be scarcely justified were I to omit exercising a warning voice against returning despotism. There is one point to which I ask attention; it is the effort to place capital on an equal footing with, if not above, labor in the structure of the government. I bid the laboring people beware of surrendering a power which they already possess, and which, when surrendered, will surely be used to close the door of advancement to such as they, and fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all of liberty shall be lost."

The New York Times—Aug. 12th, 1877—thinks it would be a good thing to have a class of land owners on one hand and tenant farmers on the other, similar to what exists in Europe, and in joy says: "And then will begin a new era in agriculture, and one that seems to be very desirable." Very desirable!! Surely not to the tenant farmers, but to the wealthy land owners.

Here is an extract from the New York World. "The American laborer must make up his mind

henceforth not to be so much better off than the European laborer. Men must be content to work for less wages. In this way the working man will be nearer to that station in life to which it has pleased God to call him."

How do you people of America relish the idea of being about the same as slaves? It is time you spoke in thunder tones through the ballot box and by your votes checked the tendency to such a state of things, through the monopoly by capitalists of the land, and by obtaining special privileges by corporate monopolies.

But the people are slow to believe that the leading newspapers, most of them, are controlled by the rich, and color things to suit the capitalists, and also that the present two great political parties are largely controlled by the same class, but if they are too apathetic they will soon be in a condition still worse than the present one, where they cannot regain the rights which they formerly possessed, except through revolution and bloodshed; and the attaining of yet higher conditions than any ever yet reached be checked, or retarded, perhaps for a long time, but not permanently, for I believe in continual evolvment, higher and yet higher, and I think the time is

about ripe for something better than the present selfish competitive system.

I think it time for the government to have control of the railroads, telegraphs and many other things, and operate them for the benefit of the people, instead of individuals owning and controlling them for their own private gain. People may profess to be governed by a sense of justice, but so long as the present banking, railroad, telegraphic, and various other systems prevail, the people will be robbed of a *very large* share of their earnings.

I see no way out of the present condition of things except by the people, or government, controlling these things, and managing them for the good of all, and not allow individuals to control things for private gain, and reap enormous profits out of the earnings of the people, for wealth comes from labor. How would any one be enabled to accumulate millions, except through the earnings of the people, and if you the people, continue to allow this state of things, you will be yourselves to blame. You should investigate these things, the tariff, and every thing that effects the well being of the people, if you wish to be free.

And in regard to women : They should have a voice in making the laws by which they are governed. Their duties and employments, especially in the right training of children—it seems to me—require as great an amount of intelligence as do man's duties and employments. Their aptness in some directions is superior to man's and he may excel in other ways, so that on the whole they are equal, and should have equal privileges. Their cares and responsibilities, are as great if not greater than man's. If men want justice between man and man, they should be willing to concede it to women in all respects. Why should she be required to yield to his lust at all times, even when undesirable and repugnant to her. If men would place themselves in woman's condition, in imagination, and see the enormity of the wrong done to her in this matter, it seems as though they would respect the sacredness of her person and feelings. I think that thousands have had their lives shortened by being induced to yield to things so contrary to their nature as to submit at all times to man's desires in this respect.

The effects upon those conceived in such conditions are lamentable. After being ushered into the world—perhaps having a murderous

disposition—it cannot be supposed to have as amiable a disposition as one born through conditions of love on both sides. The deformities of character and disposition resulting from such conditions are deplorable.

If a man withholds money or any thing that woman has a right to her share of—and of course she feels that she has that claim—the effect on the unborn is liable to make it of a thievish disposition, and the blame is mostly with man, on account of his inconsiderateness in regard to what is due woman as to these things. At such times especially, if more at one time than another, woman should be surrounded by an atmosphere of affection, congeniality and justice.

To bring about a desirable condition of society, men and women should study the laws of health in regard to food, drink, proper ventilation, both night and day, and dress in a healthy manner, so that they will be robust and cheerful and thus benefit themselves and the world.

It is a duty all owe to society, to live in such a way that they can maintain a cheerful and pleasant attitude with the world, and thus to bless all, both community and themselves, as blessings rendered to others would be returned perhaps a hundred fold, as the spirit of good-will is communicated from one to another.

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